FARMER

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EDITORIAL

EDITORIAL NOTES.

No American poem of recent years has attracted as much attention as has "The Man With The Hoe," published in The Progressive Farmer of March 28:h. This is an encouraging sign. That poem is something more than pleasing to the ear-it has a message. a great message. The fact that it has so suddenly leaped into popularity not only proves its own worth, but also that the "seed has fallen upon good ground"-that the minds of the people are in a condition to receive such mes seriously of the great questions pro pounded by the poem.

In our reading last week we came across this paragraph: "The surplus earnings of the Prussian State rail ways for the last year amount to \$125, 000,000 If the United States Government or the State governments of onequarter of the States owned their rail roads there would be no need of taxes." "Oertainly," you say, "such para graphs may be found in almost any Kansas calamity howling paper." But this didn't come from Kansas. Neither is it the utterance of a Populistic, communistic or socialistic editor or politician. We found it in the editorial paragraphs of The New York Independent, a paper which is known as a "goldbug paper." Verily, the world

Secretary Alger seems to be sustaining his reputation for doing questionable things. Speaking of his intention to become a candidate for the Senate in Michigan, his native State, to succeed Senator McMillan, if his party should so desire. Alger said to the Associated Press on the 30th ult. that Senator McMillan had 'positively de clared" to him that he would "not be a candidate for re-election," but would "do all in his power to assist my Al ger's | candidacy. He has told me so. continued the Secretary, "repeatedly and emphatically." On the 11th inst. Senator McMillan arrived in Detroit and his attention was directed to the Secretary's assertions. His comment was as follows: 'During the entire time, for over a year, in Washington, and in many casual conversations have had with General Alger, we have not mentioned the Senatorial matter. at least not in regard to his candidacy and my stepping out. There is the very strongest feeling among Michigan Republicans that I should seek reelection.

As will be seen from our General News columns this week, three white men have just been lynched in Texas because of a rumor that they had helped a criminal to escape. The worst that had ever been brought against the two brothers was an indictment charg ing them with hog stealing, but they were acquitted of this offence. Against their father absolutely no crime was charged. The character of no man, no matter how good, it seems is, proof against the blind fury of a mob. In Georgia a lying wretch charged that a reputable negro preacher was his accomplice and the mob, unreasoning and irresponsible, seeking no proof and asking for no evidence, lynched the negro preacher. A brave white man who rebuked the mob for its action came near paying the penalty with his life. Such is the record of lynch law. It knows no bounds, no law, no morals. The South is begin ning to learn that there is no palliation for such lawlessness, and that the only way to destroy it is to give it no rein whatever.

----BELIEVES IN JUSTICE.

The Statesville Mascot is another paper whose Democracy is unques tioned, but which does not endorse the is not of one's own political party. Re ferring to the statement of the Ashe and to virtually rewrite the laws." the Mascot says:

lawyer and knows nothing of legal more kindly. technicalities; but he does know that as did in the recent cases and that the of The Progressive Farmer.

fusion court then decided those case in favor of the Democratic occupants of unexpired terms, just as they have decided recent cases in favor of fusionists who held unexpired terms. We do not hold with those papers which now charge that the recent decisions are partisan, for the reason that if the court is partisan now it was partisan against its own political friends in friends in 1897. It appears to us that our Supreme Court has been consist ent on this question."

WHAT THE INITIATIVE AND REF ERENDUM ARE.

For the benefit of people who have vague and unsatisfactory ideas as to the nature of the initiative and referen dum we give below the substance of the constitutional amendment adopted by the people of South Dakota at the State policy." 1898 election.

The amendment provides that when five per cent, of the voters petition the legislature to pass a law, the legislature must submit it to a vote of the people, and if a majority of the people voting on the law vote for it, it be comes a law, but if the majority vote against it it becomes null and void. sages, and that people are thinking The law may be drawn by any person and petition circulated by any person. This is called the Initiative.

> It will be noticed that in this particular instance five per cent. of the voters may require a law submitted to the people for ratification or rejection. To us it seems that not less than ten per cent. of the people should have this public education, he said: power. Now as to the Referendum:

When the legislature on its own mo tion passes a law, then such law shall not go in force until a certain length of time after its passage. If before that date five per cent. of the voters of the state petition that such law be submitted to a vote of the people, then the law will not go in force until voted on by the people, and if at such elec tion a majority vote against the law it will be void and of no effect, but if a majority vote for it, it will be valid appropriation would give us nine and binding. This is called the R fer-

Certain laws which must necessarily go into immediate effect are excepted from the referendum.

The new charter of San Francisco also provides for the initiative and re ferendum. Speaking of this fact, the editor of American Monthly Raview of Reviews very truthfully says:

"Some of the 'wise men of the East' will shake their heads gravely and tell us that they disapprove of all this. One or two newspapers, particularly, seem to exist for the purpose in part of sneering at all such propositions. But sneers burt nobody, and the men that are wise in their own conceit are usually incapable of learning about anything that has happened within their own lifetime. People who are really wise will be delighted that San Francisco has decided to try these ex periments of the referendum and the initiative, because it will give us all an opportunity to look on and to take note of the way those new methods of gov ernment will in a big town work. If they work well, the wiseacres and the men who sit in the seats of the scorn ful may be assured that we shall adopt those same methods in many another American city. The people are ready

The trustees of the A. & M. College seem to think the agricultural branch of the college too expensive, considering the number of students taking that course. And of course the way to in crease the number of students is to cripple that department as much as possible! Bah!

THE MAN WE CANT FORGIVE.

The writer enjoys good poetry, but he does hate to see what would be good prose transformed into hideous of its railroads and street car lines verse (?). A great many people have an idea that if the words at the end of every other line of a piece of English rhyme, the stuff is poetry-at least, many versifiers labor under this hallu cination; we think the effl ction rather rare among other people. When such verse is sent us, we consider the feel him, consign it to the waste basket, \$100,000 I have j s; mentioned would affairs, knowing that the author is probably make the total addition of half a mil subject to like passions as we are. The lion annually to our schools and colwriter was once the proud possessor of leges the idea that he could write poetry and we even found and editor unkind | ings levied by the railroads upon the plan of abusing and defaming all that enough to publish some of our rhythmical productions. Years have passed; over and over has Holy Writ enjoined ville Citizen that the Supreme Court | us to forgive and love our enemies. "now takes upon itself the power to yea, "those who have despitefully review all of the acts of the legislature used us," but still the memory of the event clings to us, and we realize the difficulty of forgiving and forgetting. "This was written by the Citizen's At times we would cruelly and mali correspondent and not by us. We clously give some of the productions of have not criticised these recent decis | those ifficted as we were, a place in ions of our Supreme Court and will our columns but the memory of our not do so now. This writer is not a own bitter experience causes us to act laws. We cannot execute our consti-

the Supreme Court decided cases back any one but merely to show why some in 1897 in which the same points arose matter fails to appear in the columns

AT THE COMMENCEMENTS.

The cause of education in North Carolina is surely going forward. Not only have a number of towns voted bonds to establish schools or improve those already established. but from the various commencements of high schools, academies and colleges comes news of increasing interest in school work and greater enthusiasm on the part of those interested in such work Nearly all of the schools seem to have been well attended during the past session, and nearly all report that the outlook for the future is decidedly en couraging. This is indeed gratifying to The Progressive Farmer, whose motto is, "The industrial and educational interests of our people para mount to all other considerations of

At the commencement of the Nor mal and Industrial College in Greens boro last week, Judge Clark made a telling speech in defence of a plan to increase the efficiency of our public schools. Readers of The Progressive Farmer remember that Superintendent mebane, in his recommendations to the last General Assembly recommended that a three per cent. tax be levied on the gross earnings of railroads for the benefit of our public schools. With a few improvements this was the plan presented and advocated by Judge Clark.

After referring to North Carolina's failure to properly support the cause of

"But we constantly hear that we have not the means, and especially as to higher free education it is only com manded 'as far as practicable.' But we know that a half million of dollars or more can be added to our school fund annually from sources hitherto un tapped, sources which can best afford to furnish this contribution, and with out levying a dollar more upon those The fate of our public school system subjects that are already taxed. This and of higher education is for the peobalf a million additional to the present months of public school and swell the appropriations to higher education to an effective point, so that it would be felt in new life and impulse given to the whole State.

"Among these untapped sources of revenue may be mentioned an income and inheritance tax, graduated accord ing to amount, and exempting all small estates and incomes, while falling more heavily upon the larger ones. This source furnishes a very large part of the revenues of the British Government and I believe of all, or nearly all, the na tions upon the continents. No tax would be more just or would be less felt, for it would be levied only upon the surplus wealth, and only in proportion as it is surplus. It would be a light tax of this kind that would not produce more than \$100,000 annually in North Carolina Upon the same scale on which it is levied in England it would yield considerably more.

"Then your able and accomplished Superintendent of Public Instruction in his last Annual Report, pointed out to the legislature where a further source of \$400 000 could be raised og iitably, from a hitherto untaxed source by lavying a tax of 3 per cent. upon the gross earnings of rallroads, express, telegraph and telephone companies. He showed by an itemiz d statement that fourteen of our sister States raise revenue by levying a tax upon the gross earnings of these corporations, that Minnesota raises an annual sum of \$1,000,000 by a tax of 3 per cent, upon such earnings and that Illinois laid a tax of 7 per cent. upon the gross earnings of the Illinois Cantral. Since he made that recommendation, the State of New York has been added to the list by laying a tex of 3 per cent, upon the gross earnings

gross earnings of the railroad were over \$12,000,000 and a tax of 3 per cent. thereon would yield \$3,600,000 Prof. Trent's fearless declarations of by or before that date, he will sign the and Mr. Mebane calculated that the the need for political independence, so Ford bill just as it stands. Which the other corporations he named would were greeted with rounds of applause bonest tex legislation will stand. One swell the total aid to publish educa by the young men who are soon to R publican organ pathetically remarks ings of the writer and in kindness to tion to \$400,000, which added to the

'Out of the \$12 000,000 gross earnpeople of North Carolina, \$5 000,000 was net revenue. As the railroads are owned almost altogether outside of North Carolina, largely in London and New York, this \$5 000,000 is annually carried away from North Caro lina to its permanent impoverishment. ment, scarcely even a dollar coming back. The annual levy of the \$360 000 suggested by Mr. Mebane would be a small tax to deduct out of the large sums they profit by the protection of our tutional duty as regards the education This is not intended to discourage of the people without more money-

escaped all taxation and which yet can most easily pay it.

"It is said that the physical, tangi ble property of railroads is only assessed half as high for taxation as the property of farmers, merchants and all others, that is judging the value of property by its net income, farmers and others have their property assessed for tax at from two thirds to full value while the leading railroads have their property assessed at one-thind its val ue upon the same basis. I believe this to be true, but if their tangible physical property were assessed at full value it would not affect this tax which so many States lay upon their gross earn ings, as the latter tax is really a tax upon their franchises which the State granted them for nothing and for which they can well afford to pay an annual return of 3 per cent upon the gross earnings. Of course these corporations will object to any taxation upon them. They are not interested in the education of our people, their owners live far away from us and have no other interest here than in the net revenues they can extract from us. But the question is sq tarely presented: shall the people of North Carolina leave their children uneducated or shall they lay a reasonable and just and equitable tax upon the wealth which is so freely made out of us, wealth which has hitherto escaped all taxation yet which is best able to bear it, for the purpose of supporting a modern system of education for the lasting benefit and welfare of the State?

"Mr. Mebane broke the ice in making this recommendation to the legis lature. It considered the matter, but the voice of the people had not been heard and the voice of the corporation was of course ready to respond in opposition. When the next Legislature meets the people may have discussed the matter and made their decision. ple to decide. Shall we have an effective system or shall it linger in a comatose condition?'

This is one of the most important matters that will come before the peo of North Carolina in the next campaign-we say "will come before the people," but as a matter of fact, unless the great common people take hold of the plan and push it to the front, it is not at all likely that it will receive any consideration at the hands of the politicians. Discuss the matter and make your candidate for the legisla ture define his position as to the ques tion-so long as the people wait for practical politicians to shape the is sues and frame the platforms no great reforms can be expected. The people must force live issues to the front.

At Wake Forest College commence ment also held last week, the literary address was delivered by Prof. Wm. P. Trent, of Suwannee University. Prof. Trent's subject was "Cosmopol itanism and Parties," and he very ably and strongly rebuked the present ten dency to idolize parties-to put party above principle and above men.

The speaker thought that we do not s our political machiney properly, not because we are less capable than our forefather or because the machinery of government is bad, but be cause we have failed to adapt that machinery to the changed world in which we live. He thought that the gearing of the machinery was out of order, and he deprecated the present two party system. He endeavored to show that this system had worked well in England and America while strictly political questions were paramount, but that it could not logically work well when social and comomic problems were paramount as at present. made." Accordingly, the legislature He indicated his belief that the two party system would whether we like it or not inevitably give way to a group "In North Carolina last year the system similar to the one we see in France and Germany.

same tax upon the gross earnings of distasteful to hide-bound partisans, gives the people hope that this bit of

Another very thoughtful address W. Kitchin. Along the line of Prof. Trent's address is the following paragraph from Mr. Kitchin's speech:

the true student is toleration. Ra membering that the object of all study patience to opposing views, thinks well that he may act well and encour age others to act well."

the future will require more thought than in the past, the speaker led up naturally to the consideration of trusts: the life blood of healthy enterprise

ing of products by organization, but a up their sleeves. It will be well by monopoly means that the monopolist to expect too much from this legisle will fix the prices at both ends, and tion, nor discouraged if it fail. It that is as much tyranny as though the bound to fail if all the conditions which government sent its tax gatherers into today lie behind the trust and other every home to levy tribute for base forms of combined capital are per and infamous purposes. To the student of economics every temptation will be offered to induce him to the side of error. The future will require a higher class of statesmanship, a sturdier citizenship to meet these conditions. The weak must be protected, for all men are not born equal. We believe for example, that the white man was created the superior of the of Ohio, who accuses that corporation

And of that important question, the necessity of preserving the absolute independence from outside control of our educational institutions, the speaker said:

"The most solemn duty of man from an intellectual standpoint is honesty of thought and freedom of speech. Noth ing is more noble, nothing more useful This institution should be kept in a position to teach these things in the future as it has in the past. Do not misunderstand me, but when I see the influences gathing around some institutions of learning I tremble for right and truth and justice in the future of this country. If institutions can accept vast sums from men without coming under their influence it is a blessing, but upon the minds of every faculty and every board of trustees I would impress these two passages of Scripture: 'A man's gift maketh room for him,' and 'A gift blindeth the eyes of the wise.""

The essays of the graduating class were helpful and hopeful evincing a disposition to deal with live, practical it is permitted to control these great questions rather than with dead issues | natural founts of wealth? It is utter and ancient subjects.

THE THINKERS.

ANTI-TRUST BILLS AND TAXING PRIVILEGES.

central figure. By his help the legis

There is a peculiar situation down in

lature was led to pass the Ford tex bill. which declares that the franchises of specially privileged corporations here after shall be texed. Vast sums of money, it is said, were spent to defeat the bill. "It is a Henry George scheme," said the the corporation lob byists. "Do you want to adopt the is directed. One law like the Ford single tex and be done with it?" they bill, now under discussion in New demanded. But the legislature was perverse; its members might not un derstand the Henry George philosophy, they conceded, but here was a scheme of taxation which did not admit of dodging and, which was quite as im portant, did not admit of the corpora tion's shouldering the tax on the con sumer. So the bill was passed. Then the corporations began an attack upon Gov. Rocsevelt to keep him from sign ing the bill. "Boss" Tom Platt, who is at the head of the United States Express company, which shifts the internal-revenue tax on to the shoulders of the patrons of the company, said, "You'll kill the R publican party; another corporation lobbyist said, "You'll drive all the rich men out of the state-and where'll we be then?' But Roosevelt replied in substance: "The spirit of the Ford bill is right. There is a defect in it in that it does not provide for the equitable fixing of taxation in the several cities Under the bill as passed local authorities levy the taxes; a state commission should do the work, in justice to all. I am willing to call a special session and have such an amendment, and perhaps others which may be needed, will convene in special session next Monday. But as the governor has only until May 27 to sign or veto the measure, he has served notice that if there is any skulduggery done by which the It is very encouraging to note that new or amended bill is not in his hands take an active part in our political that the "relations between Mr. Platt and the governor are strained." Texas means to down the trusts so

was that delivered by Congressman W. | far as that state is concerned, if legis lation can do it. The new anti trust law as finally adopted surpasses any other yet adopted by any state in the mately clear, were the trial of such "The most striking characteristic of far reaching character of its provisions. It absolutely debars any pool or trust from doing business in the state, is to improve man's material and spirit | as it clearly specifics that goods bought ual welfare, the student listens with from any trust or corporation which may prove to be a trust need not be paid for. It also provides that no cor poration can fix a price on its goods Asserting that to right the wrongs of and force merchants to sell at such a price. It provides further that pooling is strictly prohibited, and that any but his illustrious ancestry, is like s corporation giving away its goods "Take the trust system that is drinking with a view of crushing competition shall be adjudged a member of a trust and robbing the pockets of the citizen; and shall be debarred from doing busi that is plain-and upon no subject the student must uncover the many ness in the state. But Texas will dis can it be laid so justly and equitably methods by which one man takes an cover it is only at the opening of the as upon those which have heretofore other's goods without value received. game, and the other side is composed county," writes Bro. W. B. Brickhouse

Its beneficiaries talk of the cheapen- of experts with innumerable trick mitted to continue. Consider the one gigantic trus

which finds its greatest strength in the control of natural resources, and in second in its control of the railways which in turn get their power from an other natural resource—their right of way. We refer to the Standard Or monopoly. Attorney General Monnet of offering him a bribe of \$400,000 if be would withhold presecutions, declared in his testimony before the industrial commission at Washington on Tuesday that he believed the gross receipted the Standard Oil company were \$130. 000,000 a year on the Olio product alone, and he said that all was profit over 4 cents a gallon on refined oil, Re placed the value of the earnings of the company each year at a greater figure than the value of all the farm product of the state. Let the farmer ponds that statement, and then calculate the difference between the taxes paid by the farmers of Ohio and those paid is Mr. R ckefeller's monopoly! Gen Monnett also complained of discriming tion in railroad rates in favor of the Standard Oil company tank lines, 8av. ing that it was equal to 400 per cent against the ordinary citizen. Does anyone suppose for a moment

that a corporation already worth hundreds of millions, and controlling natural resources that bring to it hundreds of millions more each year, can be thwarted in its purposes so long as folly to dream it for a moment, The Standard Oil monopoly could make every member of the Texas legislature a millionaire out of hand "without turning a hair." It can more cheaply control appointments and appintees who are supposed to enforce such laws New York, and Gov. Rocsevelt is the as are here referred to. But bribery aside, there are count'ess ways of defeating the provisions of such a law as T. xas has passed, and we cannot but feel that all legislation of this sort is worse than time wasted, and only serves to dishearten the people who are alwasy made the victims of the wrath of those against whom such legislation York, will do more for justice and the people in one year than all the Texanti trust laws that can be made in century. - Farmer's Voice.

THE CONSTITUTIONAL AMEND MENT.

Hon, Frank Nach, of Hillsboro, N. C., writing in the Raleigh Post says: "I appreciate, more, perhaps, that most politicians, the evils of une stricted suffrage and particularly d unrestricted negro suffrage. I know that it is a constant source of evil the white men of the South. I ned mention only one particular. H s preence as a voter here has almost @ tirely destroyed the independence the white voter and the white publi man in the South. You belong to the "nigger party," or you are aiding the "nigger party," stops his mouth muy a time when he should speak out, and hampers him, if it does not enslave him when he desires to vote his honest convictions or aid his fellow citizens in arriving at an honest conclusion. No, the negro is not a slave any longer. He is leading by the nose to the ballot box too many white men for him to feel that he has no power in this coultry. His presence is making Jeffer sonian Democracy in the South a cross between Federalism and Radicalism and I fear it is making us forget our ancient respect for law, while it revives our still more ancient regard for force. Yet neither the negro nor our selves are to blame for this condition.

Referring to the negroes of North Carolina as a race we do not hesitate to say, as our belief, that none would be more promp; to condemn and promptly punish those guilty of the unmentionable crime where circumstances of guilt were even approxicases left to them alone. Our observation has been that when charged with with the duty of arresting, trying of punishing the members of their own race for crime, they are more eager and more relenting and severe that are white people in dealing with white violators. - Raleigh Post.

Let us bear our burden bravely and as

far as we can be just to him.'

The man who has nothing to boast of potato-the only good belonging to him is underground.

"The Alliance at Albemarle is hold ing its own and we are hoping for s general raily throughout Washington